



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

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Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

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**SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMAN SENTENCED TO 24
MONTHS IN PRISON FOR IDENTITY THEFT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that PENISHA CHERIE WILLIAMS, 20, of Sacramento, California, was sentenced to two years in prison today for felony aggravated identity theft by United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton. In addition to being sentenced to federal prison, WILLIAMS was ordered to make full restitution for her thefts, and will be placed on federal supervision for a year following service of her prison term.

The case is the product of a joint investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, WILLIAMS obtained stolen identification information for several victims, and used the information to open credit cards. The credit cards were used to obtain cash and to purchase merchandise, causing over \$20,000 in losses. WILLIAMS also lived in several luxury apartments under various other persons' names, and defaulted on rent payments. She was arrested on May 8, 2006, by United States Postal Inspectors as she was leaving a Sacramento apartment complex where she had been living under a false identity. At the time she committed her crimes, WILLIAMS was on probation from Contra Costa County for similar identity theft crimes.

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